



**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
State Fire Marshal Division**

STATEMENT of POLICY

Policy #: FP-03 (2007)	Subject of Policy: Valves, Fire Department Connections and Alarms		
Reviewed and Approved By: Jerry Rosendahl	Title: State Fire Marshal	Effective Date: July 10, 2007	Revision: July 10, 2007

APPLIES TO:

All Deputies, All Fire Sprinkler Contractors, All Fire Sprinkler Designers, All Fire Sprinkler Installers.

PURPOSE: Standardization of valving arrangements for Automatic Sprinkler Systems reviewed by the State Fire Marshal Division.

VALVING ARRANGEMENTS

The following list contains the policies of the State Fire Marshal Division concerning fire sprinkler systems. The list is not all-inclusive. Unique situations can be reviewed on a case by case basis.

A) The fire department connection (FDC) shall be provided at a location approved by the local fire official. If the local fire official does not specify a location, the FDC shall be located on the street (i.e. address) side of the building.

B) An outside flow alarm is required for all systems having more than 20 sprinklers. Unless the local Authority Having Jurisdiction has specific requirements, then the outside flow alarm shall consist of a combination horn and light unit, shall be located above the fire department connection, and shall activate upon water flow. [NFPA 13(2002 edition) Section 8.16.1.1]

C) Sprinkler systems installed in "high-rise" occupancies (i.e. more than 75 feet above lowest level of fire department access) are required to have shut-off valves and water-flow devices for each floor. "Bird-cage" type sprinkler systems are not allowed in high-rise buildings. "Bird-cage" systems are allowed in low and mid-rise buildings, but designers are cautioned to consider the increase in water damage which can occur due to delays in firefighters locating the affected sprinkler which is discharging.